

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NASA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

SSC-01 CPR-01 /061 W

----- 053057

O R 061215Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6921

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMIDEASTFOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 0236

DEPT PASS DIA

CINCLANT AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT MA

SUBJECT: LEGAL BASIS FOR MALAGASY CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT

REF: TANANARIVE 0232

1. FORMER HEAD OF GOVERNMENT GENERAL GABRIEL RAMANANTSOA  
IN HIS SPEECH ANNOUNCING HIS DECISION TO NAME COLONEL  
RICHARD RATSIMANDRAVA AS HIS REPLACEMENT AS HEAD OF  
GOVERNMENT CITED ARTICLE 3 OF OCTOBER 8, 1972 REFERENDUM AS HIS  
AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

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2. ARTICLE 3 READS AS FOLLOWS: "THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT WILL

DESIGNATE BY DECREE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THE PERSON SELECTED TO REPLACE HIM IN CASE OF IMPEDIMENTS (EMPECHEMENT) BEFORE END FIVE-YEAR PERIOD FORESEEN HEREIN. THIS IMPEDIMENT WILL BE SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONFIRMATION BY THE CONSEIL SUPERIEUR DES INSTITUTIONS."

3. REPORTEDLY, BOTH REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE THREE WERE MET. GENERAL RAMANANTSOA ISSUED HIS DECREE IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AFTER APPROVAL OF CONSEIL SUPERIEUR DES INSTITUTIONS UNDER DIRECTION OF ITS PRESIDENT TOAZARA. LATTER WAS PRESENT WHEN RADIO-TV ANNOUNCEMENT MADE.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: IN VIEW OF ABOVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT QUESTION OF US RECOGNITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT IS NOT RPT NOT RAISED. PAPAL NUNCIO, WHO IS DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR, VICE DEAN, CONCUR IN THIS JUDGMENT.

5. ACTION RECOMMENDED TO DEPT: RECOMMEND THAT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE BE FORWARDED AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE TO HEAD OF STATE COLONEL RICHARD RATSIMANDRAVA FROM PRESIDENT FORD. PLEASE NOTE THAT RATSIMANDRAVA IS BOTH HEAD OF STATE AND HEAD OF GOVERNMENT IN CONTRAST TO RAMANANTSOA WHOSE TITLE WAS LATTER ONLY.  
MENDENHALL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TANANA00236  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750043-1038  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 TANANARIVE 0232  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEGAL BASIS FOR MALAGASY CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, MA, (RATSIMANDRAVA, RICHARD), (RAMANANTSOA, GABRIEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006